

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

IO-10 ACDA-10 /091 W

----- 075854

R 170946Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1631

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0916

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US

SUBJECT: MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

REF: LUSAKA 906

1. GRZ-OWNED DAILY MAIL MAY 17 CARRIED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL COMMENT ON MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT: IT "EXCELLENT EXAMPLE" OF HOW US GIVING "CONSIDERABLE CAUSE FOR SUSPICION ABOUT HER MOTIVES." INCIDENT HARDLY HAD TIME TO PROGRESS BEFORE PRESIDENT FORD "LAUNCHED RESCUE RAID REMINISCENT OF MELODRAMATIC FILM ABOUT WORLD WAR II." FACT CREW RETURNED WHILE MARINES "PLAYED SOLDIERS ON SHORE DOES NOT INCIDATE THERE WAS REAL EMERGENCY... IF US KNEW MAYAGUEZ NOT A SPY SHIP AND HAD NOTHING TO HIDE, WHY WAS PANICKY RETALIATION ORGANIZED AT ALL?... OBVIOUSLY US HAD NO INTENTION OF SOLVING PROBLEM DIPLOMATICALLY AT ANY STAGE... IT CLEAR LIVES WERE LOST IN WHAT WAS PROBABLY POINTLESS FACE-SAVING EXERCISE." EDITORIAL ASSERTS WASHINGTON POST DESCRIBED ACTION AS "A MEASURE OF JINGO-ISTIC CLAPTRAP BEYOND ALL REASON." (ON ANOTHER PAGE MAIL CARRIED REUTER REPORT INDICATING POST HAD REFERENCE NOT TO THE ACTION ITSELF BUT TO REMARKS MADE BY POLITICIANS AND OTHERS IN SUPPORT OF THE ACTION.) EDITORIAL CONTINUED: IF ACTION WAS "CYNICAL ATTEMPT" BOLSTER PRESIDENT FORD IMAGE, IT FAILED. "EPISODE WILL AT BEST PUT HIM IN RATHER FOOLISH LIGHT FOR HAVING BEHAVED SO PRECIPITATELY, OR IT WILL REVIVE BELIEF US REALLY DOES ENJOY WIELDING BIG STICK AGAINST SMALLER NATIONS."

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2. TIMES HAD NO EDITORIAL COMMENT BUT, UNDER BANNER "WORLD
BLASTS US OVER SHIP RESCUE BOOB", IT FEATURED REUTERS REPORT
ON SILENCE OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND "WORLD-WIDE CONDEMNATION"
IN PRESS OF MANY COUNTRIES.
NELSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MAYAGUEZ SS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUSAKA00916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750174-0382
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750541/aaaabksh.tel
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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